

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15

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R 141448Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6158

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2197

FOR SCI, AND S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR UR AF

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COORDINATION WITH THE USSR

REF: A. STATE 26749; B. KABUL 707; C. MOSCOW 2042;

D. MOSCOW 6179 (5/29/73)

1. AFTER CONCLUDING DISCUSSIONS ON ANOTHER MATTER (REF C), EMBOFFS FEBRUARY 11 RAISED QUESTION OF US-USSR COORDINATION IN CONTROLLING ILLEGAL TRANSITING OF NARCOTICS THROUGH THE USSR WITH DR. E.A. BABAYAN OF MINHEALTH AND E.R. SVIRIDOV OF MFA LEGAL AND TREATY DIVISION. BOTH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NARCOTICS MATTERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES AND ARE THE SOVIET DELEGATES TO THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS IN GENEVA IN FEBRUARY. FROM OUR EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH BABAYAN, IT WAS KNOWN THAT HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON MAY, 1973 MEETING BETWEEN BNDD SA BURKE AND E.G. IVANOV OF SOVIET MAIN CUSTOMS BUREAU.

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2. SCI COUNSELOR NOTED THAT DESPITE USEFUL MEETING BETWEEN BURKE AND IVANOV ON POSSIBILITY OF US-USSR COOPERATIVE MONITORING OF AFGHAN DRUG TRAFFIC THROUGH THE USSR, THERE HAS UNFORTUNATELY BEEN NO FURTHER RESPONSE FROM THE SOVIET SIDE TO BURKE'S PROPOSALS (REF D) IT WAS STRESSED THAT SUCH COOPERATION MIGHT PROVE MOST EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING THE FLOW OF ILLICIT DRUGS TO THE WEST AND CITED TWO CASES IN WHICH CONTRABAND NARCOTICS HAD BEEN SMUGGLED THROUGH THE USSR BEFORE EVENTUALLY BEING CONFISCATED IN WESTERN EUROPE.

3. BABAYAN AND SVIRIDOV EXPRESSED PERHAPS PRO FORMA) SURPRISE AT THE CONTENTION THAT THE USSR WAS BEING USED AS AN UNDERGROUND ROUTE FOR AFGHAN NARCOTICS, BUT OPENLY ACCEPTED VERACITY OF TWO INSTANCES CITED. BOTH AGREED THAT DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN COUNTERING THIS TRAFFIC WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL AND BABAYAN INDICATED DESIRE TO MEET WITH EMBOFFS AND IVANOV TO TAKE THIS UP FURTHER UPON HIS RETURN FROM GENEVA IN EARLY MARCH. ALTHOUGH IVANOV HAD BRIEFED BABAYAN ON HIS MEETING WITH BURKE, BABAYAN INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED IN DETAIL BY IVANOV ON BURKE'S PROPOSALS. SCI COUNSELOR NOTED THAT HE HAD RAISED QUESTION OF SOVIET RESPONSE TO THESE PROPOSALS WITH IVANOV SOME TIME AGO, BUT HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING FROM HIS SINCE.

4. IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS LACK OF ORCHESTRATION ON THE SOVIET SIDE, AND IVANOV'S DEMONSTRATED LACK OF FOLLOW-THROUGH, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BABAYAN'S INTEREST (AND POSITION OF AUTHORITY), EMBASSY PREFERS NOT TO MAKE ANOTHER DIRECT APPROACH TO IVANOV UNTIL BABAYAN AND SVIRIDOV HAVE RETURNED FROM GENEVA AND CAN TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS. IF ANY PROGRESS IS TO BE MADE IN THIS AREA, IT SEEMS TO US THAT OTHER SOVIET NARCOTICS CHANNELS SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE ACT RATHER THAN RESTRICTING MATTER TO CUSTOMS CHANNEL ALONE. AT SAME TIME, WE RECOGNIZE THAT CUSTOMS WILL PROBABLY CARRY CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY IF ANY COORDINATION IS IMPLEMENTED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT. IN MEETING WITH BABAYAN-IVANOV-SVIRIDOV, WE WOULD PLAN TO GIVE BRIEF RE-PLAY OF BURKE'S EARLIER PRESENTATION AND ASK FOR EARLY FULFILLMENT OF IVANOV'S EARLIER PROMISES. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED, AS WELL AS ANY INFORMATION KABUL CAN

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PROVIDE ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY SOVEMBASSY KABUL, IF ANY, IN RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS APPROACHES THERE. FOR EXAMPLE, IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT AEROFLOT WAYBILLS ARE BEING EXAMINED IN KABUL FOR SUSPECT SHIPMENTS, HAVE ANY NAME TRACE DATA BEEN EXCHANGED, OR HAS BNDD IN KABUL IDENTIFIED TO SOVEMBASSY ANY SUSPECT SHIPMENTS WITH REQUEST THAT THEY BE INVESTIGATED?

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN US AND

SOVIET EMBASSIES IN KABUL, BABAYAN SIAD THAT THERE WAS NO ONE AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN KABUL WHO WAS INVOLVED IN FOLLOWING NARCOTICS TRADE AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE.

6. SCI COUNSELOR NOTED THAT IN RESPECT TO THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL AFGHAN NARCOTICS TRADE, IT WAS DISAPPOINTING THAT THE USSR HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED TO THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL, WHICH IS PRIMARILY DIRECTED AT ASSISTING THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IN COMBATTING ILLEGAL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. BABAYAN REPLIED THAT THE USSR HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS VIEW THAT SUCH PROGRAMS SHOULD BE MANAGED BY THE UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM RATHER THAN BY A SPECIALIZED FUND IN WHICH "NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD EITHER BE POORLY USED OR NOT AT ALL."
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